

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1-79. (Cancelled)

81-82 (Withdrawn)

83. (Currently amended) A method in a distributed system ~~comprised of~~ said system comprising a plurality of lookup services with associated network services, and a client computer having a client lookup manager with an associated cache, the method comprising the steps of the client lookup manager:

~~receiving, at the client lookup manager from the client computer,~~ a request to access a network service;

~~retrieving, using the client lookup manager, a reference to a lookup service from searching~~ the associated cache ~~, wherein said lookup service is associated with said for an instance of the requested~~ network service;

returning, when said searching step is successful, the instance of the requested network service to the client computer;

~~sending, from the client lookup manager, when said searching step is unsuccessful, a request to [[the]] a lookup service identifying the requested network service to be accessed; and~~

~~displaying at least one icon identifying the network service to be accessed when the network service to be accessed is available~~

storing received responses to said request in the associated cache.

84. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 83, wherein the retrieving

searching step further comprises searching a table of the plurality of lookup services and the associated network services for said the requested network service.

85-88. (Withdrawn)

89. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions which, when executed on a data processing system having an associated cache, cause the data processing system to perform a method for accessing network services, the data processing system having a software cache and communicatively coupled to a plurality of lookup services available for use in the data processing system, the method comprising the steps of the data processing apparatus:

receiving, at the data processing apparatus, from a client computer a request to access a network service;

~~retrieving, using the data processing apparatus, a reference to a lookup service from searching the software associated cache, wherein said lookup service is associated with said for an instance of the requested network service;~~

returning, when said searching step is successful, the instance of the requested network service to the client computer;

sending, from the data processing apparatus when said searching step is unsuccessful, a request to [[the]] a lookup service identifying the requested network service to be accessed; and

displaying at least one icon identifying the network service to be accessed when the network service to be accessed is available

storing received responses to said request in the associated cache.

90. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 89, wherein the ~~retrieving~~ searching step further comprises searching a table of the plurality of lookup services and associated network services for ~~said~~ the requested network service.

91. (Withdrawn)

92. (Currently Amended) A distributed system comprising:

a server computer with a lookup service having references to a plurality of network services; and

a client computer including a client lookup manager with an associated cache, wherein said client lookup manager:

receives, from the client computer, a request to access a network service;

searches the associated cache for an instance of the requested network service;

returns, when said searching step is successful, the instance of the requested network service to the client computer;

sends, when said searching step is unsuccessful, a request, identifying the requested network service, to the server, a reference to one of said plurality of lookup services ; and

stores said-reference received responses to said request in the associated cache of said client lookup manager.

93. (Withdrawn)